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group and the bridge isolates the virtual networks from each other, whereby any communications received at a first port of the bridge are directly sent by the bridge to another bridge port only if the other bridge port and the first bridge port are part of the same group.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 24 and 39 without prejudice or disclaimer.

REMARKS

In response to the final Office Action mailed June 10, 2002, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.116(b), the amendments made herein are made to cancel claims and to comply with requirements of form expressly set forth in the final Office Action.

IN THE ABSTRACT

In response to the Final Office Action, Applicant has amended the Abstract to remove the sole instance of the word "said," as illustrated in the document attached hereto, titled "Marked-Up Abstract". No new matter has been added by these changes, and Applicant respectfully requests that the change be accepted.

IN THE CLAIMS

In response to the Final Office Action, to put this application in condition for allowance, claims 24 and 39 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, as was previously intended as part of the Amendment filed on April 30, 2002.

CONCLUSION

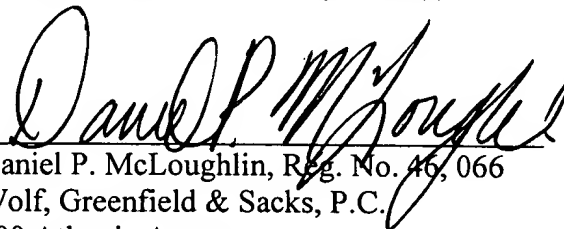
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50/1127.

Respectfully submitted

George Varghese et al, Applicant(s)

By:



Daniel P. McLoughlin, Reg. No. 46, 066

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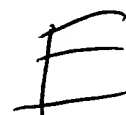
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Attorney for Applicant

Docket No.: E00378.70942/JHM/DPM

Date: July 2, 2002

xAugust 10, 2002x





Serial No.: 09/411,773

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Art Unit: 2662

MARKED-UP ABSTRACT

A network device for interconnecting computer networks, the device including a bridge having a plurality of ports through which network communications pass to and from the bridge, the bridge also including a first interface enabling a user to partition the plurality of bridge ports into a plurality of groups, wherein each group represents a different virtual network, wherein the bridge treats all ports within a given group as part of the virtual network corresponding to that group and the bridge isolates [said] the virtual networks from each other, whereby any communications received at a first port of the bridge are directly sent by the bridge to another bridge port only if the other bridge port and the first bridge port are part of the same group.

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